

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

I look to journalists and broadcaster to report on the topics that affect us in a balanced and responsible manner. Sinclair's decision to air an anti-Kerry piece without airing a pro-Kerry piece is irresponsible and does nothing to support the democracy this country is based upon. I would invite Sinclair to similarly air both pro and con pieces on President Bush, allowing listeners to hear both sides and make intelligent, informed, and unbiased personal decisions about the most qualified individual to lead our country. That is responsible and ethical broadcasting.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Please do not allow media conglomerates to act as partisan pundits at the expense of sound journalism and freedom of choice.

Thank you,

Erin Moore